

PM Scott
McFarlin

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE LANDS COMMISSION

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING IN THE MATTER OF
AT&T ASIA AMERICA GATEWAY PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

SANDS SUITES
CONFERENCE ROOM
1930 MONTEREY STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2007

5:30 P.M.

Reported by:
Troy Ray

PETERS SHORTHAND REPORTING CORPORATION (916) 362-2345

APPEARANCES

STAFF

Mr. Eric Gillies, California State Lands Commission

Mr. Scott McFarlin, California State Lands Commission

Ms. Sue Young, California State Lands Commission

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Alex Bugrov, Air Pollution Control District

Mr. Bob Wargo, AT&T

Murray Wilson, County of San Luis Obispo

PETERS SHORTHAND REPORTING CORPORATION (916) 362-2345

I N D E X

	Page
Opening remarks by Scott McFarlin	1
Public Comments	6
Adjournment	9
Certificate of Reporter	10

PETERS SHORTHAND REPORTING CORPORATION (916) 362-2345

1 P R O C E E D I N G

2 MR. McFARLIN: We're going to start the public
3 scoping meeting for AT&T Asia-America Gateway project.
4 It's November 27th, approximately 5:30.

5 We have a transcriber here, so if you want to get
6 up and make comments, please step up to the microphone so
7 they can be recorded.

8 We have a sign-in sheet over there on the table,
9 so if you could sign in. We also have comment sheets
10 there for you. You can submit your comments by email,
11 fax, or present them here.

12 My name's Scott McFarlin. I'm an environmental
13 scientist with the Environmental Planning Division of
14 California State Lands Commission. I'll be the project
15 manager for this project. I'll be overseeing the
16 preparation of the EIR for the AT&T Asia-America Gateway
17 project, AAG as we'll be known as.

18 To my right is Eric Gillies. He's a project
19 manager with State Lands Commission. And we have Sue
20 Young over here who is our project manager for our Land
21 Management Division for State lands.

22 And Bob Wargo is here with AT&T, and he'll do a
23 presentation on the project. The EIR was prepared in
24 accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act,
25 and the California State Lands Commission is the lead

1 agency for the EIR. Our commission will be making a
2 decision on the EIR and the project once we are through
3 with the Draft EIR and the final EIR process.

4 The NOP was sent out on November 7th, and the
5 comment period ends on December 6th, 2007, at
6 5:00 o'clock.

7 We hope to bring consultants on board in February
8 and have a draft out in the summer and hopefully have a
9 final out towards the end of next year and be able to
10 present it to our commission for approval in late 2008.

11 The Draft EIR will go out, we'll have another
12 public meeting, same type of format, and that will happen
13 within the 45-day review period. Then the final EIR will
14 be presented and it will address all the comments that are
15 made on the Draft EIR. Everybody that submits comments on
16 the Draft EIR will receive a copy of the final draft.

17 And are there any questions regarding the CEQA
18 process? No. All right.

19 Then Bob Wargo from AT&T will give a presentation
20 on the project.

21 MR. WARGO: Thank you.

22 Thank you for the opportunity to provide further
23 information on the Asia-America Gateway, AAG, fiber optic
24 project. I'll be referring to the cable as AAG throughout
25 this presentation. The AAG fiber optic cable network is

1 needed to serve existing and growing telecommunication
2 demands between the United States and Southeast Asia.

3 The network will transmit existing voice, data,
4 and multimedia services and will be capable of meeting the
5 bandwidth requirements for new broadband applications.
6 The network will link the United States to Southeast Asia
7 with landings in San Luis Obispo and in the United States
8 in Hawaii, and Guam, in Singapore, Thailand, Brunei,
9 Vietnam, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Malaysia.

10 The network is owned by a consortium of ten
11 telecommunications parties including AT&T, Bharti in
12 India, CAT in Thailand, Philippines Long Distance
13 Telephone Company, PT Telkom in Indonesia, Telekom
14 Malaysia, Telstra in Australia, StarHub in Singapore, VNPT
15 in Vietnam and the Government of Brunei.

16 One of AT&T's tasks is to land and connect a
17 segment of the fiber optic cable to the western
18 United States and in fact all of the United States.

19 The project being discussed today accomplishes
20 that task by landing the proposed cable at our existing
21 facilities in the Sandspit parking lot of Montana de Oro
22 State Park and then by connecting the cable to our
23 existing cable station on Los Osos Valley Road to the west
24 of San Luis Obispo.

25 The onshore portion of the project utilizes

1 existing structures, so no significant new construction is
2 required. Offshore of San Luis Obispo, the cable will
3 follow the alignment of existing cables for about five or
4 six miles, then proceed in a south-westerly direction to
5 Hawaii, then to Guam, and finally on to landings in
6 Southeast Asia.

7 And you can see around the room there's a couple
8 charts that show the alignment of the cable.

9 For about 70 miles offshore until close to the
10 edge of the outer continental shelf and where the water
11 depth is roughly 1850 meters, or a thousand fathoms, the
12 cable will be buried to a depth of one meter where
13 feasible. Burial of the cable is principally motivated to
14 avoid unwanted contact with fishing gear.

15 Based on our prior experience, we are confident
16 that substantial burial of the new cable can be achieved
17 and contact with fishing gear can be avoided.

18 AT&T has extensive experience installing cables
19 off shore of San Luis Obispo. We have operated marine
20 cables in the area since the 1960s and recently installed
21 two new fiber optic cables in 2000. Those being
22 China-U.S. and Japan-U.S.

23 We achieved substantial burial of those cables
24 and all our post-installation surveys show that the burial
25 status of these cables is very stable. In fact, we have

1 not experienced any problems with these cables. We expect
2 similar results with the new AAG cable.

3 From a marine biology perspective, the cable will
4 be installed to minimize impacts to the ocean floor and
5 marine life. This is done by avoiding rock outcrop or
6 other sensitive areas by using care when installing the
7 cable and by installing the cable within the wedge of
8 existing cables.

9 Burying the cable where feasible also avoids
10 unwanted contact with marine mammals. To further minimize
11 impacts during installation, marine mammal observers will
12 be on the cable ship to assist with avoiding injuries to
13 marine mammals.

14 As with other projects, AT&T is committed to
15 working with the community and permitting agencies on this
16 project. AT&T will be working with not only the
17 California State Lands Commission but also with California
18 Coastal Commission, San Luis Obispo County, Montana de Oro
19 State Park, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the
20 United States Army Corp of Engineers, the United States
21 Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries
22 Service, the local fishing community and other interested
23 parties.

24 AT&T prides itself on positive working
25 relationships with the local community. We are a charter

1 member of the Central California Joint/Cable Fisheries
2 Liaison Committee. And I am personally here in the
3 community on a periodic basis to meet with the fishing
4 community as a part of our continued efforts to stay
5 connected and be responsive to those issues.

6 AT&T's hope is to have this project permitted and
7 installed in the San Luis Obispo area by fall 2008.

8 Thank you for your time. We look forward to
9 working with you and all interested parties towards a
10 successful completion of this project. Thank you.

11 MR. McFARLIN: Are there any general questions
12 regarding the proposed project?

13 All right. We'll now open up for comments on the
14 scope and the content of the EIR.

15 Does anyone have any comments?

16 MR. WILSON: I have one comment. Just recently
17 back in -- Murray Wilson, County of San Luis Obispo.

18 Recently the Department of Fish and Game
19 established marine closures within this stretch of
20 coastline, and I just wanted to make sure that that was
21 addressed in the EIR regarding location to, the purpose of
22 those marine closures were to reestablish local fisheries
23 and whether this project would be going through those
24 areas or avoiding them and impacts related to those.

25 So that was one thing that popped in my head

1 after the first meeting today. And that's all.

2 MR. McFARLIN: Thank you. Are there any other
3 questions or comments?

4 MR. BUGROV: Alex Bugrov for Air Pollution
5 Control District.

6 Do you have a summary statement for construction,
7 demolition activities, marine and terrestrial?

8 MR. WARGO: Demolition activities?

9 MR. BUGROV: Are you demolishing or doing any
10 kind of excavation on shore, and what level of marine
11 operations roughly?

12 MR. WARGO: The air quality will be addressed in
13 the EIR that's being prepared. And we know we have to
14 address those issues. We've addressed them in the past
15 with the previous cables that were installed. And as I
16 understand, the primary issue with air quality is related
17 to emissions from the cable ship.

18 MR. BUGROV: Yeah, most of the time. But you
19 guys are also doing some sort of terrestrial activity,
20 you're either doing stuff on site or you're linking it to
21 another cable?

22 MR. WARGO: Yes, we will be going over land
23 pulling cable through existing conduits.

24 MR. BUGROV: Okay. So you're not burying
25 anything, in other words?

1 MR. WARGO: The conduits are already in place.

2 MR. BUGROV: Okay.

3 MR. WILSON: What about disturbance to get access
4 to those pull locations? Do you need to put any new roads
5 in? Is there existing access that won't need to be
6 reestablished or is there existing -- ground disturbance
7 points is really the question I guess.

8 MR. WARGO: There are existing roads and access
9 points to the spots we need to get to. As to how easily
10 those spots are gotten to and what kind of disturbance
11 will be caused getting to them will obviously be worked in
12 the EIR as well.

13 MR. BUGROV: And the overall scope of marine
14 work, is it on par with the previous operations, or bigger
15 or smaller or roughly the same?

16 MR. WARGO: Well, it's following the same general
17 route, so it's on par. The previous marine work was done
18 by an older vessel. This marine work as I understand it
19 will be done by newer vessels with newer marine engines
20 producing less emissions. So hopefully it will be less of
21 an impact.

22 MR. BUGROV: Good. Thank you.

23 MR. McFARLIN: Any other comments? Okay. This
24 meeting is adjourned, and the public comment is closed.

25 Thanks, everybody, for attending.

1 (Thereupon, the November 27, 2007,
2 Public Scoping Meeting of the
3 AT&T Asia America Gateway Project
4 was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.)
5

--oOo--

PETERS SHORTHAND REPORTING CORPORATION (916) 362-2345

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, TROY RAY, an Electronic Reporter, do hereby certify that I am a disinterested person herein; that I recorded the foregoing California State Lands Public Scoping Meeting; that thereafter the recording was transcribed.

I further certify that I am not counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said Public Meeting, or in any way interested in the outcome of said Public Meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of December, 2007.

PETERS SHORTHAND REPORTING CORPORATION (916) 362-2345